



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Jon Kyl
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kyl:

This responds to your letter to Director Mueller dated February 24, 2009, regarding your interest in reports that the FBI has severed its liaison relationship with the Council on Islamic Relations (CAIR). I apologize for the delay in responding to your inquiry. For your information an identical letter has been sent to Senator Schumer and to Senator Coburn, M.D.

As you know, CAIR was named as an unindicted co-conspirator of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development in *United States v. Holy Land Foundation et al.* (Cr. No. 3:04-240-P(N.D.TX.)). During that trial, evidence was introduced that demonstrated a relationship among CAIR, individual CAIR founders (including its current President Emeritus and its Executive Director) and the Palestine Committee. Evidence was also introduced that demonstrated a relationship between the Palestine Committee and HAMAS, which was designated as a terrorist organization in 1995. In light of that evidence, the FBI suspended all formal contacts between CAIR and the FBI.

The FBI's decision to suspend formal contacts was not intended to reflect a wholesale judgment of the organization and its entire membership. Nevertheless, until we can resolve whether there continues to be a connection between CAIR or its executives and HAMAS, the FBI does not view CAIR as an appropriate liaison partner. It is important to note, however, that although the FBI has suspended all formal outreach activities with CAIR at this time, CAIR, its officers, and members have been encouraged to report any hate crime, violation of federal civil rights or suspicious activity to the FBI.

The FBI made its own decision vis-a-vis outreach activities with this particular group. Any questions regarding broader executive branch outreach activities would be better answered by the Administration.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we may be of additional assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Richard C. Powers
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional Affairs